

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 06039 01 OF 02 111306Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05

OPIC-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 DHA-02 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4587

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 6039

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION

REF: POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION

REF: LISBON 6006 DTG 101133Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUED STATEMENT EARLY MORNING
OCT 11 REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT AND CONDEMNING VIOLENCE,
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PAGE 02 LISBON 06039 01 OF 02 111306Z

WHICH IT LINKED TO "MANIPULATION BY PROGRESSIVE GROUPS."

COMMANDER GEN CARVALHO FURTHER FUELED CONTROVERSY WITH PUBLICATION PREVIOUS DAY CONTROVERSY-GENERATING INTERVIEW. OTELO'S REMARKS PLACE HIM CLEARLY AT ODDS WITH THE MAJORITY SENTIMENT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND FURTHER POINT UP GOP'S NEED TO CONTROL DISSIDENTS WITHIN ITS MIDST IF IT IS TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY.
END SUMMARY

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETS: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUED BRIEF STATEMENT OCT 11 AT 6:00 A.M. (AS USUAL) FOLLOWING LONG JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. STATEMENT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT;
- CONDEMNED VIOLENCE, WHICH IT LINKED TO "MANIPULATION BY PROGRESSIVE GROUPS";
- WARNED "REAL REVOLUTIONARIES" TO GUARD AGAINST BEING USED BY RIGHTISTS POSING AS LEFTISTS. JC REPORTEDLY ALSO DISCUSSED CONTROVERSIAL RECENT INTERVIEWS BY ADM ROSA COUTINHO AND GEN CARVALHO (SEE BELOW).

2. OTELO INTERVIEW: COPCON COMMANDER GEN OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO FUELED GROWING POLITICAL-MILITARY CONTROVERSY WITH THE PUBLICATION IN EVENING PRESS OCT 10 OF LONG INTERVIEW WITH SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. INTERVIEW IS REplete WITH CONTROVERSY GENERATING STATEMENTS BY OTELO, INCLUDING:

- OTELO AS LEADER: IF I WANTED TO I COULD BE GOVERNING THE COUNTRY, BUT I PREFER TO WORK WITH OTHER MEN WHO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE.
- OTELO AS COPCON COMMANDER: I DO NOT INTEND TO RESIGN, AND I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANYONE IN THIS COUNTRY YET WHO HAS THE COURAGE TO MAKE ME RESIGN.
- REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE: I AM NOT GUIDED BY TRADITIONAL MILITARY CODES. IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO FOLLOW A CODE OF GOOD SENSE AND REVOLUTIONARY LOGIC.
- PACT WITH PARTIES: PACT BETWEEN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND POLITICAL PARTIES WAS BROKEN BY COMPOSITION OF SIXTH GOVERNMENT IN ACCORD WITH PERCENTAGES OBTAINED IN APRIL 25 ELECTORAL RESULTS.
- VASCO GONCALVES: FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IS NOT THROUGH POLITICALLY. HE COULD STILL PLAY A USEFUL ROLE AS A REVOLUTIONARY THEORETICIAN.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 06039 01 OF 02 111306Z

- MELO ANTUNES MANIFESTO: I REPUDIATED DOCUMENT; IT WAS PERHAPS RESPONSIBLE FOR SITUATION IN WHICH ARMED FORCES NOW FIND THEMSELVES. NEVERTHELESS, POLITICALLY IT HAD AN INITIAL CALMING EFFECT.
- MELO ANTUNES: I CONSIDER HIM A SOCIALIST WITH A CLEAR VISION OF HOW WE CAN CONSTRUCT SOCIALISM FROM THE GROUND UP.
- PS: BECAUSE OF ITS PARLIAMENTARIANISM TENDENCIES, I DO NOT CONSIDER IT A TRUE PARTY OF THE LEFT.

-- PCP: IT IS A PARTY WITHOUT WHICH WE CANNOT CONSTRUCT
SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL.
-- FAR LEFT GROUPS: THEY ARE AN INDISPENSABLE CATALYST TO
REVOLUTION.
-- CIA: MANY THINGS THAT OCCUR HERE COULD BE FAIRLY DESCRIBED
AS CIA ACTIONS.

3. MORE VIOLENCE IN OPORTO: OCT 10/11 ATTACKS ON HEADQUARTERS OF
ULTRA-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP) RESULTED IN MORE
THAN 50 INJURED AND WOUNDED. SEVERAL OF THOSE WOUNDED IN
EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE ARE IN SERIOUS CONDITION. UNABLE TO
PENETRATE UDP, ATTACKERS MOVED ON TO HEADQUARTERS OF COMMUNIST
ELECTORAL FRONT (FEC-ML) WHERE CONTENTS HAULED INTO STREET AND
BURNED. (DETAILS REPORTED IN SEPTTEL FROM AMCONSUL OPORTO.)

4. PS RALLY: ALMOST AT SAME TIME VIOLENCE WAS UNDERWAY AT
NEARBY UDP HEADQUARTERS, SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) LEADER MARIO
SOARES WAS ADDRESSING PARTY SUPPORTERS (ESTIMATED BY OUR
CONSUL AT MORE THAN 30,000) IN OPORTO CENTRAL SQUARE.
SOARES' PRINCIPAL THEMES WERE SUPPORT FOR SIXTH PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT AND NORTHERN REGION MILITARY COMMANDER PIRES
VELOSO. SOARES MADE SPECIAL POINT OF DISASSOCIATING PS
FROM ACTS OF VIOLENCE, STRESSING THAT "PS IS THE PARTY OF THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, WHICH DOES NOT NEED TO COMMIT ACTS OF
VIOLENCE ... OR TO EMPLOY FIREARMS TO MADE THE REVOLUTION."
DEMONSTRATORS THEN MARCHED TO HEADQUARTERS OF DRIVING SCHOOL DETACH-
MENT (CICAP), WHERE MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR "LOYALIST" TROOPS
OCCUPYING SITE WERE READ, AND HEADQUARTERS OF NORTHERN MILITARY
REGION, WHERE SOARES AND BG PIRES VELOSO EXCHANGED FRIENDLY
REMARKS. DEMONSTRATION SPONSORED EARLIER IN DAY BY VARIOUS
"PROGRESSIVE" ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF OUSTED COMMUNIST-
INCLINED OPORTO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MADE LITTLE IMPACT.
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PAGE 04 LISBON 06039 01 OF 02 111306Z

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06039 02 OF 02 111409Z

41
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USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 6039

5. PPD RALLY: THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) DREW ABOUT 8,000 SUPPORTERS TO OCT 10 RALLY, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY OFFICER ON SCENE. RALLY NEARLY FILLED LISBON'S "CAMPO PEQUENO" BULLRING -- A TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST (PCP) MEETING PALCE. PPD SECRETARY GENERAL SA CARNEIRO STRONGLY CONDEMNED "ATTEMPTS TO PCP AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES TO SUBVERT THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE RADICAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION, "SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN" (SUV).

6. PCP DISAGREES: PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED STATEMENT
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PAGE 02 LISBON 06039 02 OF 02 111409Z

OCT 10 STRONGLY DISAGREEING WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VERSION OF OCT 8 CLASHES BETWEEN PPD AND RADICAL SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS IN OPORTO (REFTL). PCP STATEMENT WARNED THAT REPRESSION WOULD MEET REDOUBLED RESISTANCE AND FURTHER AGGRAVATE CRISIS.

7. AMI FORMED: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUED CLARIFYING NOTE ON OCT 10 DESIGNED TO END SPECULATION ON COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF AMI. AMI, NOTE SAID, IS MADE UP OF COMMANDOS, NAVY

MARINES, AND AIR FORCE PARATROOPERS. AMI, IT ADDED, IS INTENDED TO INTERVENE ONLY IN CRITICAL SITUATIONS AFTER POSSIBILITIES OF USING COPCON AND OTHER MILITARY FORCES ARE EXHAUSTED.

8. COMMENT: THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OCT 11 STATEMENT PLACES RC SQUARELY ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF POSITION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE OVERALL STANDOFF CONTINUES BETWEEN THOSE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING STRONG MEASURES TO REASSERT DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND COMMUNIST AND FAR-LEFT ELEMENTS SEEKING TO FURTHER ERODE THAT DISCIPLINE. OTELO'S INTERVIEW, IN CHARACTERISTIC STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER BUT TYPICALLY INCONSISTENT LANGUAGE, PLACES HIM CLEARLY AT ODDS WITH THE MAJORITY SENTIMENT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. DESPITE HIS COMPLIMENTARY REFERENCES TO MELO ANTUNES, OTELO'S REMARKS ADD UP TO AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH RADICAL AND PRO-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WHOSE FATE HE NOW APPARENTLY SEES LINKED DIRECTLY WITH HIS OWN. THE INTERVIEW, RELEASED ON THE EVE OF THE RC MEETING WHICH PRODUCED THE ABOVE STATEMENT, FURTHER POINTS UP GOP'S NEED TO CONTROL DISSIDENTS WITHIN ITS MIDST IF IT IS TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY.
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